



JUDICIAL COUNCIL  
OF CALIFORNIA

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## FACT SHEET

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April 2016

# Child Support Guidelines Study

### **Background**

The Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program (Assembly Bill 1058) is a mandated statewide program to expedite child support cases. The Judicial Council administers it by adopting rules and forms, setting standards for the Office of the Family Law Facilitator, overseeing budget administration, and in other ways ensuring successful implementation of the program. The Child Support Commissioner and Family Law Facilitator Program is charged with the oversight of the Judicial Council's review of California's statewide uniform child support guideline. The Center for Families, Children & the Courts (CFCC), a division of the Judicial Council, is responsible for conducting the guidelines study. CFCC focuses on juvenile and family projects that improve the lives of children through positive changes in the trial and appellate courts' handling of matters involving children.

### **Review of Statewide Uniform Child Support Guideline**

California has adopted a child support guideline in compliance with federal law, 42 U.S.C. section 667(a). California Family Code, section 4054(a) provides that the "Judicial Council shall periodically review the statewide uniform guideline to recommend to the Legislature appropriate revisions." California's guideline is found at Family Code sections 4050-4076. Federal law also requires that child support guidelines be reviewed by the state at least once every four years to "ensure that their application results in the determination of appropriate child support award amounts," as promulgated by 42 U.S.C. section 667(a).

## **Timeline and Scope**

### **Phase I: Fall 2016**

- Post RFP for Contractor
- Review applications and enter into agreement with contractor

### **Phase II: Winter 2016**

- Literature reviews on other state guidelines and special topics
- Research on the cost of raising children
- Casefile review training
- Begin case file reviews in the 11 sample counties

### **Phase III: Spring 2017**

- Casefile review data analysis
- Conduct focus groups

### **Phase IV: Spring - Summer 2017**

- Draft policy recommendations and report
- Post draft for public comment

### **Phase V: Fall 2017**

- Report sent to the Judicial Council of California

### **Phase VI: Winter 2018**

- Report sent to the California Legislature

#### *Contact:*

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#### *Additional resources:*

<http://www.courts.ca.gov/cfcc-childsupport.htm>